

Appendix



Translated by Thomas Adlercreutz

His Royal Majesty's Placat and Decree regarding Old Monuments and Antiquities

We Charles, by the grace of God, King and Heir Principal of Sweden, Gothia, Vendia, Grand-Duke to Finland, Duke in Scania, Estonia, Livonia, Carelia, Bremen, Verden, Stettin-Pomerania, Cassubia, Vendia, Duke to Ruegen, Lord of Ingria and Wismar,

And also Palatinate Count at the Rhine in Bavaria, at Guelich, Clewe and Bergen, Duke, etc.

Do hereby make publicly known, as We with great discontent experience how not just the Antiquities, Remains and Monuments of Time immemorial, which from heathen Times by deceased Kings of Sweden and Gothia, and other eminent Men and Subjects by their manly Achievements all over Our Realm, partly in Castles, Strongholds and Cairns, partly in Monuments and Stones with runic Inscriptions, partly in their Tombs and Burial Sites in great Numbers, are being treated with such Recklessness and unlawful Self-indulgence that Day by Day they succumb to Wreckage and Destruction,

and also Monuments which have been left by Kings, Queens and Princes, and other Eminences of the Nobility and the Clergy in our Christian Churches to their Honour and Memory, are being destroyed and occupied and damaged by others, something that must be condemned and averted, as such Monuments should be treasured as Objects which by themselves and by Virtue of their Creation ought to be saved from Desecration and Disrepute, to the immortal Glory of our Ancestors and our entire Realm.

For this Reason, with a view to the particular Zeal Our Ancestors, Kings of Sweden, have dutifully exerted, as well as publically to confirm the discontent We take to the abovementioned Disorder, We have decided henceforth to protect and manage against unlawful Handling, by ordering Our faithful Subjects thereby concerned as good and necessary and according to this Our public Placat, firstly that no-one whoever he may be from this Day forward shall in any manner make asunder or destroy the Castles, Houses, Fortresses, Strongholds or Cairns, which still may remain in any or one place, regardless of how small these Remains may be, nor should he in any way waste Standing Stones or Stones with runic inscriptions, but should leave them altogether unscathed in their right former places, the same applying to all big amassed Mounds of Earth and Burial Sites, where many Kings and other Worthies have established their Tombs and resting Places, as We all such old Monuments on Our Land or on Land pertaining to the Crown, be it Our Property or taxable Property, regardless of whether it is now Our property or has been in the past and now surrendered, protect against all wilful Injury as if it were Our private Property, and take it into Our Royal Custody and Trust.

Turning to Our faithful Subjects of the House of Nobility, if there are any such Antiquities in their Lands of Tenure from Time immemorial, requesting them to care for their Conservation, in the vein of this Our Intention, the Importance of the Matter at hand, and as their own Honour would prescribe.

Thereafter We declare that no-one, of high or lowly Status, Cleric or Secular, pertaining to any Estate or Class, is permitted to plunder or rob tombs of Royals, Princes or other Nobles, which may be found in ruined or still standing Churches or Monasteries, much less to use them for own interment or in any way cause their old and rightful Proprietors any Damage or Infringement.

As it is Our will that all Churches and Monasteries and all their Inventory, Gear, Decorations on Walls and Windows, Paintings or any Kind of mindfully created interior, as well as Tombs and Burial places of the dead inside Churches or outside in Churchyards, be shown the Care, Peace and Safety as befits their Christian Customs, Practice and Exercise, so that conclusively all Elements, no matter how small they may meet the



Eye, may serve as Confirmation and Remembrance of a Historic Deed, Person, Place or Family, should carefully be respected and cared for, and that no permit should be given to waste or destroy even the slightest Part thereof.

And if anyone should presume to do anything against or else contravene Our Commandment, then it is Our will that he should suffer as anyone who disregards Our Decree, but also be subjected to Our High Disgrace.

Should there be any Abuse, Disorder or Damage done to any of the Objectives mentioned in this Placat, then We command earnestly that any such Act be corrected, and restituted to its former Condition.

For this reason We command not just Our General Vicegerent in Stockholm, Governors General, Governors, Provincial Governors, Stateholders, Mayors and Councils in the Cities, Provincial and Town Constables in the Countryside to watch over this Placat in full and careful Earnest, but also the Archbishop, Bishops, Superintendents, Provosts and Vicars all over Our Realm, that they each in his Place publically proclaim and also watch over the Objects which may be found in their Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes and which are of the abovementioned Kind, to which End We also order every Person who may know of such Things, or who may possess old Scripture, Books, Letters, Coins or Seals, that they report to their Vicars or Our Constables, so that We through them may be able to communicate.

Every Person in general and particularly everyone concerned shall dutifully oblige. Furthermore, We have confirmed this with Our Royal Seal and the signatures of Our Highly Honoured and Beloved Mother and other Members of Our Regency Government.

Stockholm, 28 November 1666

(Locus Sigilli) Hedvig Eleonora

Seved Bååt	Gustav Banér	Gustaf Otto Stenbock
In lieu of the Justiciar	In lieu of the Marshall	Admiral of the Realm

Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie	Gustav Soop
Chancellor of the Realm	In lieu of the Treasurer

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